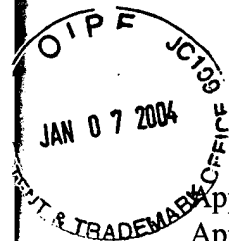


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1765-



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/967,098  
Applicant : James O. Hansen et al.  
Filed : September 28, 2001  
TC/A.U. : 1765  
Examiner : Anita Karen Alanko

Confirmation No. 7571

Docket No. : F-7951r(01-235)  
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

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AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the office action mailed October 3, 2003, setting a three (3) month shortened statutory period for response which expired on Saturday, January 3, 2004, and which is thus extended to Monday, January 5, 2004, amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.